

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

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R 151803Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4810

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 29524

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN 29524 VICE 2954

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB

SUBJECT: DGB POSITION RE CGT-CGIL ENTRY INTO ETUC

REF: (A) BONN 16457; (B) BRUSSELS 6405

1. SHORT ITEM IN FO'S WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF 7 NOVEMBER WAS ONLY PUBLICITY GIVEN TO 1 NOVEMBER VISIT TO PARIS BY H.O. VETTER, DGB PRESIDENT, AND TO HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH FO SEC. GEN. A. ?34&349,. FO REPORTS THAT VETTER STATED THAT CONTRARY TO DECLARATIONS MADE BY GEORGES SEGUY, CGT SEC. GEN., DGB HAS NEVER FAVORED CGT ENTRY INTO ETUC.

2. BERGERON AND A. FAESCH, FORCONFEDERAL SECRETARY, WHO SERVED AS INTERPRETER, TOLD LABATT THAT THEY WERE VERY PLEASED AND ENCOURAGED BY VETTER'S VISIT.

3. HOWEVER, OTHER FO LEADERS FIND IT STRANGE THAT VETTER HAS NOT YET ISSUED STATEMENT TO DENY ANY BASIS TO SEGUY'S REPEATED
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CLAIMS, ESPECIALLY IN VARNA, THAT DGB SUPPORTS CGT EFFORT

TO AFFILIATE WITH ETUC.

4. ABOVE VIEW IS SHARED BY LAVONDES, PRESIDENT POMPIDOU'S COUNSELOR FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS, WHO, IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH LABATT, WENT SO FAR AS TO INTIMATE "DOUBLE-CROSSING" ON VETTER'S PART, CITING "INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN THE ELYSEE" AS BASIS FOR THIS CHARACTERIZATION OF VETTER'S ATTITUDE. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, LAVONDES PLACED DGB INTERNATIONAL LABOR POLITICS IN CONTEXT OF OVERALL FRG INTERNATIONAL POLITICS, AND IMPLIED THAT VETTER'S ATTITUDE IS STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

5. LAVONDES WAS REASONABLY WELL-INFORMED ON ETUC AND WFTU CONGRESS IN VARNA AND ASKED SEVERAL QUESTIONS TO FILL CERTAIN GAPS IN HIS INFORMATION.

6. COMMENT: WHILE REFTELS LEAVE NO DOUBT ABOUT VETTER AND DGB STAND ON QUESTION OF CGT-CGIL ENTRY INTO ETUC, A VETTER PUBLIC STATEMENT OR PRESS INTERVIEW WOULD SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT. STATEMENT IN FO MAGAZINE ABOVE WOULD NOT INHIBIT SEGUY FROM REPEATING HIS ALLEGATION. SEGUY'S PURPOSE IS TO CREATE CONFUSION AND DOUBT ABOUT SOLIDITY OF ETUC OPPOSITION TO CGT AND THEREBY CONVEYING IMPRESSION THAT IRRESISTIBLE UNITARY MOVEMENT EXISTS ALREADY ON EUROPEAN LABOR SCENE.

7. AS FOR LAVONDES' VIEWS, THEY SHOULD BE ADDED TO THE EVIDENCE PERIODICALLY REPORTED BY EMBASSY REGARDING GOF SUSPICIONS TOWARD RG.
IRWIN

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